

*As we work our way out of the recession, we must make sure our rural areas are not left behind*

**Fresno, CA** – Congressman Jim Costa today announced \$77,000 in federal funding to repair homes in the rural areas of Fresno, Kings, Madera, Merced, and Tulare counties. The funding, made available through the USDA Housing Preservation Grant program, was awarded to Self-Help Enterprises, a nonprofit housing and community development organization serving the Valley. The funds encourage economic development across rural areas by improving the local housing supply and making home repairs such as wiring, heating, roofing and plumbing.

“As we work our way out of the recession, we must make sure our rural areas are not left behind,” said Costa. “These funds will spur economic development in our smaller towns by strengthening the housing market and quality of life for residents. I am pleased to see additional federal funds return to our local communities and I will continue to support these efforts.”

President and CEO of Self-Help Enterprises, Peter Carey, said that the funding will not only improve housing, but also create jobs in the construction field: “Not only will these funds improve housing in rural communities, but they will provide jobs in the hard-hit construction industry.”

The repairs and home improvements are financed through a combination of loans and grants. In partnership with USDA Rural Development and local communities, Self-Help Enterprises has repaired or rehabilitated nearly 6,000 homes across the Valley.